

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Original): A usage control apparatus for controlling use of a device, comprising:
a holding module configured to hold money information requested when the device is made to perform a process that uses the device for predetermined usage; and
a transmitting module configured to transmit the money information to the device at the time of processing by the device.

Claim 2 (Original): A usage control apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the transmitting module transmits process data for processing by the device to the device.

Claim 3 (Original): A usage control apparatus according to Claim 2, further comprising a controller configured to control whether the processing may proceed or not, by comparing an amount of processing specified by the process data, with an allowable amount of processing indicated by the money information.

Claim 4 (Original): A usage control apparatus according to Claim 2, further comprising a money information updating module configured to update the money information according to an amount of processing specified by the process data.

Claim 5 (Original): A usage control apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the transmitting module transmits the money information in an amount required for an amount of processing specified by the process data.

Claim 6 (Original): A usage control apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the transmitting module transmits the money information held by the holding module; and
the usage control apparatus further comprises
a receiving module which receives from the device an updated value of the money information updated according to an amount of processing specified by the process data.

Claim 7 (Original): A usage control apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the device is a printer, and the process data is print data.

Claim 8 (Original): A usage control apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the holding module acquires and holds the money information from a server connected via a network.

Claim 9 (Original): A usage control apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein the holding module notifies the server of an amount of money information that has not been used.

Claim 10 (Original): A usage control apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the money information includes control information which is usable for determining whether the money information is useable; and

the usage control apparatus further comprises:

a transmission controller which decides, based on the control information, whether the money information is useable, and if the money information is not useable, prohibits transmission of the money information.

Claim 11 (Original): A usage control apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the money information is coin information permitting unit-based use of the device.

Claim 12 (Original): A usage control apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein

the usage is established based on at least one selected from an amount of data processed by the device; consumed amount of an expendable consumed by the device; duration of use of the device; power consumed by the device; ; and number of times of use of the device.

Claim 13 (Original): A usage control apparatus for using a device for which predetermined money information is requested depending on usage, the usage control apparatus comprising:

a holding module configured to acquire, from a server connected to the usage control apparatus via a network, money information in an amount requested for using the device by a predetermined amount, and to hold the money information; and

a transmitting module configured to transmit to the device process data for processing by the device;

wherein the transmitting module further transmits to the device, from the money information held by the holding module, the money information in at least an amount requested for causing the device to process the process data.

Claim 14 (Original): A usage control apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein the transmitting module transmits to the device, together with the process data, the money information in an amount requested for causing the device to process the process data; and

the usage control apparatus further comprises

an updating module which updates the money information held in the holding module by deducting the money information in an amount transmitted to the device.

Claim 15 (Original): A usage control apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein

the transmitting module transmits to the device all the money information held in the holding module; and

the usage control apparatus further comprises:

a receiving module configured to receive from the device the money information that has been transmitted to the device and was deducted in an amount requested for causing the device to process and to store the money information in the holding module.

Claim 16 (Original): A device, comprising:

a process command receiving module configured to receive a process command from a usage control apparatus for controlling a process;

a decision module configured to decide whether or not to enable the process based on the process command, depending on whether money information requested when the device performs the process that uses the device for predetermined usage is held in the device and/or in the usage control apparatus; and

a processing module configured to perform the process, in the event that the decision module has decided to enable processing.

Claim 17 (Original): A device according to Claim 16, wherein process data targeted for the process is received as the process command.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A device according to Claim ~~16~~ 17, further comprising:
a managing module configured to manage the money information; and
a updating module configured to update the money information depending on an amount of processing specified by the process data.

Claim 19 (Original): A device according to Claim 17, further comprising
a redelivery module which transmits to the usage control apparatus an updated value of the money information that has been updated according to an amount of processing specified by the process data.

Claim 20 (Original): A device according to Claim 17, further comprising:
an output module configured to output, on the device and/or on the usage control apparatus, an amount of money information that has been requested and used for the process, and/or
an amount of money information that has not been used and is held by the device and/or the usage control apparatus.

Claim 21 (Original): A device according to Claim 20, wherein
the output module, in the event of outputting the amount of unused money information, outputs an amount of money information useable by the usage control apparatus.

Claim 22 (Original): A device according to Claim 17, wherein
the device is a printer, and the process data is print data.

Claim 23 (Original): A device according to Claim 16, further comprising
a receiving module which receives the money information at the time of execution of the process.

Claim 24 (Original): A device according to Claim 16, wherein
the money information includes control information for determining whether the money information is useable; and
the device further comprises

a process prohibiting module which decides, based on the control information, whether the money information is useable, and if decided not useable, prohibits the process.

Claim 25 (Original): A device according to Claim 16, wherein
the money information is coin information permitting unit-based use of a fixed usage.

Claim 26 (Original): A device according to Claim 16, wherein
the usage is established based on at least one selected from the amount of data processed by the device; consumed amount of an expendable consumed by the device; duration of use of the device; power consumed by the device; and number of times of use of the device.

Claim 27 (Original): A device according to Claim 16, wherein
the money information is encrypted; and
the device further comprises:
a key holding module which holds a key capable of decrypting the encrypted money information; and
a decrypting module which decrypts the encrypted money information with the key.

Claim 28 (Original): Device for executing a process in exchange for money information, the device comprising:
a holding module which
receives, from a usage control apparatus connected to the device, money information in an amount for using the device for predetermined amount and
holds the money information;
a receiving module receives process data for processing from the usage control apparatus;
a processing module able to execute the process; and
a decision module that, in the event that an amount of money information required for processing the process data is less than an amount of money information held in the holding module, causes the processing module to execute the process.

Claim 29 (Original): A device according to Claim 28, further comprising:

a transmitting module which transmits to the usage control apparatus money information that has been held in the holding module and was deducted money information in an amount required for processing of the process data.

Claim 30 (Original): A device according to Claim 28, further comprising

an updating module which updates the money information by deducting money information in an amount required for processing of the process data from the money information held in the holding module.

Claim 31 (Original): A method for controlling use of a device, comprising the steps of:

holding money information requested when the device is made to perform a process that uses the device for predetermined usage; and

transmitting the money information to the device at the time of processing by the device.

Claim 32 (Original): A method for using a device for which predetermined money information is requested depending on usage, the method comprising the steps of:

acquiring and holding money information in an amount requested for using the device by a predetermined amount; and

transmitting to the device process data for processing by the device;

transmitting to the device, from the money information held, the money information in at least an amount requested for causing the device to process the process data.

Claim 33 (Currently Amended): A method for controlling a device, comprising the steps of:

receiving a process command from a usage control apparatus for controlling a process;

deciding whether to enable a process based on the process command, depending on whether money information requested when the device performs the process that uses the device for predetermined usage is held in the device and/or in the usage control apparatus; and

performing the process, in the event that the decision is enabled ~~module has decided~~
~~to enable~~ processing.

Claim 34 (Original): A method for executing a process in exchange for money information,
the method comprising the steps of::

receiving and holding money information in an amount requested in exchange for
executing a predetermined amount of process;

receiving process data for processing;

executing the process in the event that an amount of money information required for
processing the process data is less than an amount of money information held.